



Upper Colorado River SRP Environmental Assessment Q&A

What is the Proposed Action in this Environmental Assessment?

Under the proposed action, BLM would issue five new commercial special recreation permits or permit modifications along the Colorado River in Grand and Eagle counties:

New permits for commercial float boating to:

- Colorado Wilderness Rides and Guides
- East Grand School District

Permit modification to:

- Arkansas Valley Adventures for equipment rental and shuttling equipment
- Gore Range Expeditions for shuttling guests and rental equipment
- Adventure in Whitewater for shuttling vehicles

Why are these five permits being proposed to be approved?

The Kremmling Field Office's original announcement for permit applications in 2014 stated that given the large number of permittees already operating, BLM was looking to permit services and activities either not available or not adequately being provided for on the Upper Colorado River.

The two float boating permits would provide opportunities and knowledge to visitors who would not normally have access to river related activities. Colorado Wilderness Rides and Guides plans to offer multi-sport team building tours which will include rafting. The East Grand School District would provide very low-cost overnight river trips for up to 200 of its students during the summer.

The shuttling permits all would fill services needed on the Upper Colorado: Adventures in Whitewater would become the second general shuttle service working this high-demand area. Gore Range Expeditions would shuttle its guests and equipment, and Arkansas Valley Adventures would shuttle its rental equipment.

How can I comment on the EA?

The environmental assessment is available for review at <http://on.doi.gov/1AwqYEV>. Comments on the environmental assessment will be most helpful if received by June 29, 2015 and can be sent to svalente@blm.gov or mailed to: Kremmling Field Office, PO Box 68, 2103 E. Park Ave, Kremmling, CO 80459.

Why are other permit applications not being approved under the proposed action?

The Kremmling Field Office lifted its long-standing moratorium on special recreation permits for the Upper Colorado River in 2014 looking to permit services and activities either not available or not adequately being provided for on the Upper Colorado River.

Before drafting this environmental assessment, the Kremmling Field Office sought public review of 10 new commercial special recreation permit applications and five SRP modifications that potentially met those criteria. Based on BLM's internal review and the public review, the Kremmling Field Office narrowed the proposed action to the one detailed above.

Could these additional permits be considered in the future?

A large concern from the public and other stakeholders is that the Upper Colorado River is at or near carrying capacity for commercial and private use. The BLM plans to initiate a capacity study and gain a better understanding of what services current permittees are conducting before new floatboating, float and wade fishing permits can be issued. The study will help determine how to protect the Outstanding Remarkable Values for Wild and Scenic Values.

How many commercial activities are currently permitted on the Upper Colorado River?

Currently 61 operators hold 71 permits for this area – 40 for float boating, 30 for fishing, and one for a shuttle service. Nearly half of the more than 60,000 visitors who annually float the Colorado River between Pumphouse and State Bridge use the services of commercial outfitters, for instance.